due to craze for outsourcing opportunities amongst the science community. However, the Government is aware that some scientists are taking up research and scientific positions in private and public sector within the country and abroad because of better opportunities and research facilities available. This is unlikely to have any adverse effect on Government work.

(c) No, Sir.

International Union of Radio Science

2528. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a convention of the 'International Union of Radio Science' was recently held at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deliberations at the convention has opened the scope for predicting earthquake more accurately and sufficiently in advance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what measures are contemplated to put in place a mechanism for early and accurate detection of earthquake in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A convention of the International Union of Radio Science was held at New Delhi from October 23-29, 2005. More than 1200 participants, including foreign and Indian scientists working in the various fields of radio science, attended the convention. A number of papers on different topics, including, air ionization and thermal anomalies related to earthquake occurrence, principle component analysis of geomagnetic data, study of seismo electromagnetic events, effect of December 26, 2004 earthquake on global ionosphere Electron content and the observational findings related to December 26, 2004, were presented.

(c) The papers on electromagnetic radiations as earthquake precursors observed by a number of scientists in high, low and very low

frequencies highlighted the importance of radio emissions in earthquake prediction studies.

(d) The Department of Science and Technology has initiated a programme on earthquake precursory phenomena. India Meteorological Department is also in the process of modernization and upgradation of seismological facilities for early and better detection of earthquakes in the country. In order to achieve the above goals, a number of projects, namely, establishment of multi parametric geophysical observatories at selected locations in the country and setting up of real time seismic monitoring network for Tsunami warning systems are under various stages of implementation.

Setting up of ISR in Gujarat

2529. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed to set up an Institute of Seismology Research (ISR) in Gujarat utilizing a World Bank loan of Rs. 30 crores;

(b) whether no further initiatives were taken either by the Central Government or the State Government resulting in the lapse of the time-bound World Bank loan;

(c) whether the Institute acquired digital seismographs from funds put in by the State Government to create a State-wise network; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in Central fund allotments for over two years now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided, Government of Gujarat has set up an Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) in Gujarat and no lapse of the World Bank loan has taken place.

(c) Digital Seismographs have been procured by Government of Gujarat.

(d) Does not arise.